

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W
-----190927Z 007619 /10

R 181209Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9950
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1670

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR YO
SUBJ: INITIAL YUGOSLAV REACTION TO SILBERMAN ARTICLE

1. YUGOSLAV RADIO AND PRESS HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO SUBJECT WITH STRESS ON DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT. ZAGREB'S "VJESNIK" MAR 17 TERMS STATEMENT "CLEARCUT AND DIGNIFIED". FURTHER, IT STATES SILBERMAN AS AMBASSADOR SEEMED TO DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE "TO DETERIORATE ALL THE GOOD ACHIEVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN BUILT FOR YEARS IN YUGOSLAV-U.S. RELATIONS," BUT ADDS THAT "THIS ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT INTEND TO SNAP AT SILBERMAN'S BAIT." SUMMARY OF "BORBA" AND "POLITIKA" COVERAGE COVERED IN USIS PRESS REACTION SEPTTEL.

2. ON ONLY GOY COMMENT OFFERED TO US THUS FAR, NEW HEAD OF DEFENSE SECRETARIAT FLS, COL. VUK MADJER, TOLD CHARGE' THAT STATEMENT WAS "VERY GOOD, VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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USEFUL" AND THAT YUGOSLAVS ARE SATISFIED.

3. MAR 15 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE CONTAINING UPI ARTICLE ON SILBERMAN ARTICLE WAS NOT ON BELGRADE NEWSTANDS. (SAME EDITION, HOWEVER, CARRIED GETLER PIECE ON DJILAS).

4. COMMENT: YUGOSLAV PRESS HAS BEEN ATTACKING WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS SILBERMAN'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA. ARTICLES ARE IMPLYING DEPARTMENT HAS REPUDIATED SILBERMAN. POLITIKA'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT GUSTINCIC ON MAR 16 SAID THAT "IN ITS TALK WITH YUGOSLAV CORRESPONDENTS THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DISASSOCIATING ITSELF IN ADVANCE FROM THE FORMER AMBASSADOR AND HIS DEFENSE OF 'ACTIVE PRESSURE' ON BELGRADE."

THERE IS, OF COURSE, A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "DISASSOCIATION" AND "REPUDIATION" OF AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN, WHICH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO MAINTAIN AND WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN FUTURE. AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN NOW SPEAKING AS PRIVATE CITIZEN AND HIS VIEWS ARE HIS OWN, NOT THOSE OF NEW ADMINISTRATION. WHILE WE HAVE NOT SEEN AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN'S ARTICLE, THERE MAY BE PARTS OF IT WHICH CONTAIN USEFUL LESSON FOR ALL. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT BEST WAY TO HANDLE ANY FUTURE YUGOSLAV OR OTHER INQUIRIES ON ARTICLE OR AMBASSADOR IS TO STRESS NEW ADMINISTRATION'S BALANCED POLICY TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA AND AVOID "REPUDIATION" OF AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN. END COMMENT.
YORK

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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